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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Seventh (pre-sessional) executive session
Geneva, 15 September 1994
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the seventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

Addendum

Item 4 Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

Item 4(a) Special Committee on Preferences: twenty-first session (16-20 May 1994)

The report of the Special Committee on Preferences on its twenty-first session will be before the Board. The Chairman's summary of discussions is contained in annex III and the provisional agenda which the Committee approved for its twenty-second session is reproduced in annex II. Annex V contains the text which the Committee adopted regarding technical assistance in connection with the Generalized System of Preferences.

Particular attention is drawn to annex I, containing the Committee's recommendation to the Trade and Development Board that an intergovernmental group of experts on rules of origin be established to make proposals to the Special Committee, in view of the policy review on the GSP in 1995, on the simplification, harmonization and improvement of the rules of origin. In taking action on this recommendation, the Board may wish to take note of the secretariat's statement to the Committee (recorded in paragraph 82 of the

report that the proposed intergovernmental group of experts could be accommodated within existing provisions for meetings of experts and study groups in the 1994-1995 calendar, and that the travel and per diem of participating experts would be borne by their respective Governments and not by UNCTAD. The same annex requests the secretariat to prepare complementary studies and reviews in order to facilitate the discussions of the policy review meeting.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Committee on its twenty-first session and to establish the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Rules of Origin on the basis of annex I and the secretariat's statement, as recorded in paragraph 82 of the report.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/2	Report of the Special Committee on
TD/B/SCP/10	Preferences on its twenty-first session

Item 4(b) Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget: twenty-third session (20-23 June 1994)

At its twenty-third session, the Working Party reviewed the draft revisions to the UNCTAD sections of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997. The decision adopted by the Working Party at its 104th meeting on 23 June 1994 is contained in annex I to the report on the session. The provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session, as approved by the Working Party, is reproduced in annex II.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Working Party on its twenty-third session.

With respect to annex I, the Board may wish to defer consideration of the Working Party's decision of 23 June 1994 to the eighth executive session of the Board, due to the time constraints at the seventh pre-sessional executive session.

Particular attention is drawn to section A, paragraph 4, of annex I, whereby the Working Party considered that, "in view of the number of sub-programmes designated as high priority, the Trade and Development Board, at its next session, should take up the issue of prioritization and should provide guidance on the handling of this matter before the Working Party examines the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997." The Board may wish to refer the issue of prioritization to the consultations of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, the outcome of which would be reported to its eighth executive session.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/5	Report of the Working Party on the
TD/B/WP/85	Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its twenty-third session

Item 4(c) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors - Insurance: second session (4-8 July 1994)

At its second session, the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors - Insurance reviewed developments in the insurance market and considered specific items of the work programme, as well as conducting a general review of progress made in the implementation of its work programme.

Attention is drawn to annex I to the report on the session, containing the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee, which call for a number of specific studies to be prepared by the secretariat. The provisional agenda for the third session, as approved by the Committee, is reproduced in annex II.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its second session and to endorse the recommendations contained in annex I thereto.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/8 TD/B/CN.4/38	Report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors - Insurance on its second session

Item 4(d) Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries: fourth session (4-8 July 1994)

It will be recalled that, at its fifth (pre-sessional) executive session on 8 April 1994, the Board endorsed the Working Group's proposal that it submit an interim progress report to the mid-term review (25-27 May) and prepare its final report at its fourth session (4-8 July), following the Working Group's consideration of the results of the Uruguay Round and their effects on the trading prospects of the developing countries.

In the light of the above, the Board may wish to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its fourth session, as well as of the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and decide to remit them to the first part of its forty-first session in connection with the discussions under item 5, when the Board will be commencing its analysis and assessment of the outcome of the Uruguay Round.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/6 TD/B/WG.4/14	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries on its fourth session
TD/B/41(1)/7 TD/B/WG.4/15	Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries

Item 4(e) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors - Shipping: second session (11-15 July 1994)

The Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors - Shipping devoted its second session to discussing the impact of progressive liberalization on the development of shipping services; considering the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports (25-29 October 1993) and reviewing the activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme of the Committee.

The Board's attention is drawn in particular to annex I to the report on the session, containing the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee wherein, inter alia, the Committee has provided directives for future work by the secretariat. The provisional agenda for the third session, as approved by the Committee, is contained in annex II.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its second session and to endorse the recommendations contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/9	Report of the Standing Committee on Developing
TD/B/CN.4/39	Services Sectors - Shipping on its second session

Item 4(f) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: second session (18-22 July 1994)

At its second session, the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors considered a progress report by the secretariat on the implementation of the work programme of the Committee; two progress reports under the heading "Promoting transparency"; a comparative analysis and four specific studies on fostering competitive services sectors; and a report by the secretariat containing suggestions as to where technical cooperation in services should be strengthened.

Attention is drawn to annex I to the report on the session, containing the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee, which call for the secretariat, inter alia, to establish as early as possible a database on measures affecting service trade.

The Standing Committee also welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to organize an expert group to examine ways of enhancing access to and use of information networks and distribution channels. A relevant statement of financial implications, if any, will be before the Board.

The provisional agenda for the third session, as approved by the Standing Committee, is contained in annex II.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its second session and, having taken note of any statement of financial implications concerning the convening of an expert group on information networks and distribution channels, to endorse the recommendations annexed thereto.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/10	Report of the Standing Committee on Developing
TD/B/CN.4/40	Services Sectors: Fostering Services Sectors in Developing Countries on its second session

Item 4(g) Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation: second session (25-29 July 1994)

At its second session, the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation exchanged experiences on poverty reduction impacts of social funds and safety nets, including the mobilization of domestic and external resources for poverty alleviation, and discussed the effects on poverty alleviation of structural adjustment programmes, job creation policies, and means for the participation of small-scale and micro-enterprises in international trade. The Committee also discussed social mobilization and organization of the poor and agreed on a number of recommendations to submit as its contribution to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995). These recommendations were to be examined by the Preparatory Committee of the Summit (New York, 22 August - 2 September 1994).

Attention is drawn to paragraphs 63-89 of the report on the session, containing the Chairman's summary of informal discussions. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Committee are contained in paragraphs 90-92. Special attention is drawn to annex I to the report, containing the contribution of the Standing Committee to the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development. The provisional agenda for the Committee's third session is contained in annex II.

In taking note of the report of the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation on its second session, the Board may wish to endorse the agreed conclusions contained in paragraphs 90-92 and the contribution to the World Summit for Social Development, contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/11	Report of the Standing Committee on Poverty
TD/B/CN.2/11	Alleviation on its second session

Item 6 Outcome of the mid-term review (May 1994): matters requiring follow-up

- Commission on Transnational Corporations and Commission on Science and Technology for Development

In its conclusions and decisions 415 (XL) of 27 May 1994, the Board considered that the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should be incorporated into the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. Since both Commissions have, up to the present, been functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Board is drawn to the action taken by ECOSOC at its substantive session of 1994.

Commission on Transnational Corporations

At its twentieth session (2-11 May 1994), the Commission on Transnational Corporations approved a draft resolution which was recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, concerning the integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of UNCTAD. On 14 July 1994 the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1994/1 in which, inter alia, it recommended to the General Assembly that it decide that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should become a commission of the Trade and Development Board and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations. It also recommended that the General Assembly request the Trade and Development Board to address urgently the question of orienting the programme of work of the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its twentieth session, that the Board should orient the work in such a way as to attract attendance of relevant senior public sector officials, whenever possible, as well as private sector representatives, and that the work should include certain specific orientations provided in the resolution.

In its conclusions and decisions 415 (XL), of 27 May 1994, the Trade and Development Board took note that the Commission on Transnational Corporations had made the above recommendation to the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, and recorded its wish to respond at the earliest possible moment, without prejudice to the outcome in ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

The Board may therefore wish to note the decision of ECOSOC and, pending the decision of the General Assembly, decide to put into effect the recommendations of the Commission with regard to its work in paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c) of resolution 1994/1.

The Board may wish to note that, in its decision 1994/226 of 14 July 1994, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its twentieth session (E/1994/32). The next session is scheduled to be held from 24 to 29 April 1995.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

In paragraph 9 of the agreed conclusions 1994/1 of 29 July 1994 (circulated in E/1994/L.37), on "Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: science and technology for development", the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, agreed that "closer linkages between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Trade and Development Board should be discussed in more depth, taking into account the need for links with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations institutions. The role of the UNCTAD secretariat in providing substantive support to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its comparative advantage within the United Nations system should be recognized. In this respect, the importance of the resources that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/228, allocated to UNCTAD to carry out its new responsibilities in the field of science and technology was emphasized."